

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims is to replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for distributing and activating ~~[[an]]~~ a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Transponder at a point of purchase, the system comprising:

an RFID Transponder Dispenser/Authorizer (RTDA) apparatus having a storage for a plurality of Transponders, ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of Transponders in the storage, each Transponder having a unique ID code, at least one electronic data reader, and network access to a processor system; and

an RTDA application having customer data verification, electronic data and account data verification across the network at the processor, an interface to the RTDA apparatus to control dispensing of Transponders, and receiving an account verification code and an activation, confirmation code from the processor;

whereby the RTDA reads customer electronic account data, verifies same and verifies the account is valid, dispenses a Transponder to a customer, reads the Transponder ID code, and associates the Transponder ID code with the customer's electronic account data in a unique customer record in an RFID database, and receives an account activation confirmation code and displays confirmation of activation to the customer.

1 2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a component
2 selected from the list of components consisting of webcam or the like, printer,
3 LCD touchscreen, and barcode reader.

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5 3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the storage for
6 Transponders is further comprised of a plurality of dispensers, each dispenser
7 dispensing a different kind of Transponder.

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9 4. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A Radio Frequency Identification
10 Transponder Dispenser/Authorizer (RTDA) apparatus for distributing and
11 activating [[an]] a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Transponder at a point
12 of purchase, the apparatus comprising:

13 a storage for a plurality of Transponders, [[a]] the plurality of Transponders
14 dispensable in the storage, each Transponder having a unique ID code, network
15 access to a processor system, a MICR reader, a credit/debit card reader, a bar code
16 reader, an RFID reader, a touchscreen input device, and a dispenser controller, at
17 least one of the readers operable to read customer financial account data for
18 sending across the network to the processor system, the RFID reader operable to
19 read the unique Transponder code for sending across the network to the processor
20 system, such that the dispenser controller effects secure dispensing of a
21 Transponder upon a verification from the processor.

1 5. (Currently Amended) A method of securely dispensing [[an]] a
2 Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) Transponder at a point of purchase for use
3 by a customer, the RFID Transponder having a unique ID code readable at the
4 point of purchase, the method comprising the following steps:

5 reading at the point of purchase and uploading customer selected electronic
6 account data through a network to a processor;

7 processor validation of the account data and sending back to the point of
8 purchase a validation code and a record locator code;

9 reading the validation code and selectably dispensing a Transponder to the
10 customer if the code matches preselected criteria for dispensing;

11 reading the dispensed Transponder ID code at the point of purchase and
12 uploading it and the record locator code through the network to the processor;

13 processor activation of the Transponder ID by association of the
14 Transponder ID with the customer selected electronic account in a processor
15 database record such that the customer account may be dynamically charged
16 whenever the unique Transponder ID is associated with the customer database
17 record for payment, the timing of activation being selected from the list of
18 activation timings consisting of immediate, batched, and held for point of purchase
19 cashier verification of customer ID.

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21 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising, after the
22 activation step, the step of the processor sending an activation confirmation code
23 back to the point of purchase such that the customer is immediately advised as to
24 the status of activation, based on the confirmation code.
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1 7. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising, after the
2 activation step, the step of the customer logging in to the processor from the point
3 of purchase to perform maintenance on the customer record at the processor
4 database.

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6 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of
7 performing maintenance on the customer record is selected from the list of steps
8 consisting of modifying the account, linking an additional transponder to the
9 account, replacing a lost transponder, assigning the Transponder to a different
10 customer financial account, updating the Transponder, and ~~caneelling~~ canceling a
11 Transponder.

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13 9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the selected timing of
14 activation is immediate.

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16 10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the selected timing of
17 activation is that activation is held for point of purchase cashier verification of
18 customer ID, and further comprising the following steps after association of the
19 Transponder ID with the customer selected electronic account in the processor
20 database record:

21 customer is instructed to verify her own personal identification with the
22 cashier;

23 cashier so verifies;

24 Transponder ID code is read again, either by a reader that is controlled by
25 the cashier, and/or by any reader, but with the cashier inputting a store code to

1 confirm his verification of the customer ID, and the Transponder ID and the store
2 code if any are sent to the processor;

3 such that the customer account may be immediately dynamically charged.
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5 11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the Transponder ID
6 code is read again and the cashier inputs a store code to confirm his verification of
7 the customer ID, and the Transponder ID and the store code are sent to the
8 processor.
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10 12. (Original) The method of claim 5 further wherein the step of
11 processor validation of the account data and sending back to the point of purchase
12 a validation code and a record locator code also includes queuing of the customer
13 database record for later activation upon receiving a valid Transponder ID.
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15 13. (Original) The method of claim 5 further wherein the step of
16 reading the validation code and selectably dispensing a Transponder to the
17 customer includes acceptance by the customer of a displayed terms of use prior to
18 the Transponder being dispensed.
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